

Micheline R. Ishay

The Levant Express

The Arab Uprisings, Human Rights, and the
Future of the Middle East

Yale University Press, 2019

"Comprehensive and refreshing, *The Levant Express* provides perceptive, timely, and provocative analysis and much-needed insight for those seeking to address the new and even unforeseen challenges facing the Middle East."

—Mahmood Monshipouri

"Micheline Ishay observes history and the Arab uprisings and applies a human rights lens on a possible 're-routing of the Levant Express' for the region as a whole. This master of the metaphor has produced a highly readable study that is well documented, empathic, and hopeful."

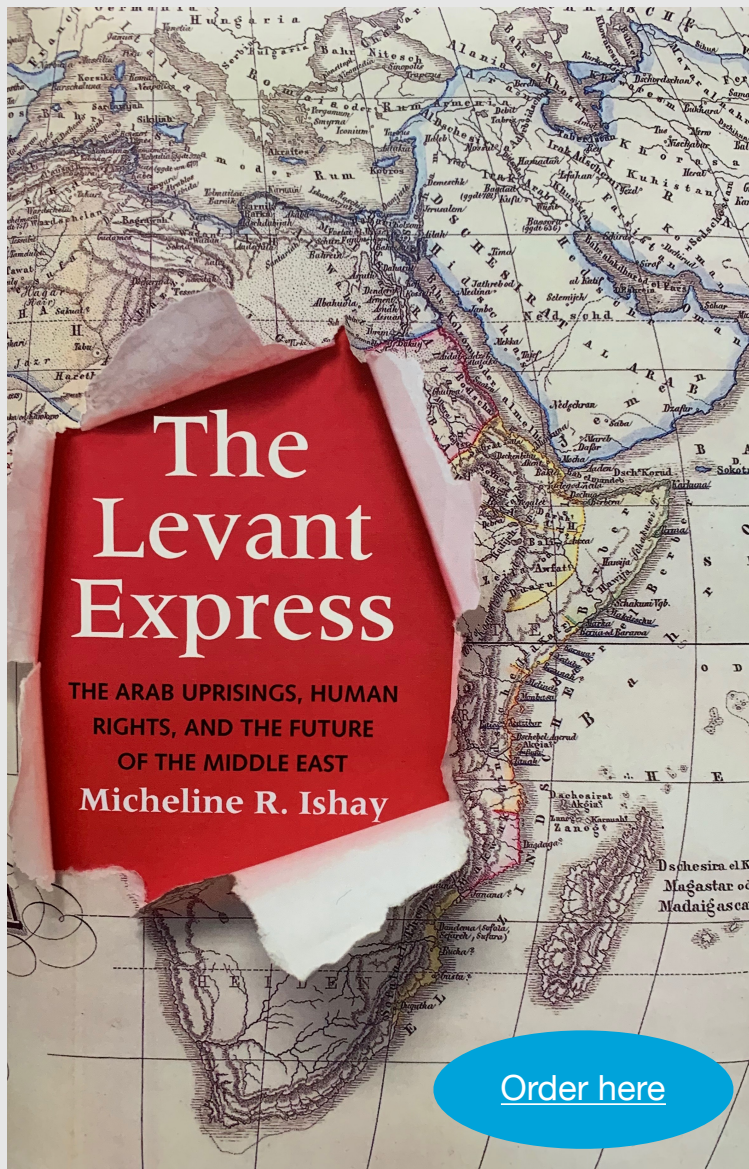
—Valentine M. Moghadam

"The Levant Express is a beautiful, challenging, and deeply humane book that combines a journey of personal discovery with a cosmopolitan commitment to human rights. ...A seminal work that is essential reading for anyone interested in the politics of our times."

—Stephen Eric Bronner

The enormous sense of optimism unleashed by the Arab Spring in 2011 soon gave way to widespread suffering and despair. Of the many popular uprisings against autocratic regimes, Tunisia's now stands alone as a beacon of hope for sustainable human rights progress. Libya is a failed state; Egypt returned to military dictatorship; the Gulf States suppressed popular protests and tightened control; and Syria and Yemen are ravaged by civil war.

Challenging the widely shared pessimism among regional experts, Micheline Ishay charts bold and realistic pathways for human rights in a region beset by political repression, economic distress, sectarian conflict, a refugee crisis, and violence against women. With due attention to how patterns of revolution and counterrevolution play out in different societies and historical contexts, Ishay reveals the progressive potential of subterranean human rights forces and offers strategies for transforming current realities in the Middle East.



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